

Amata 176.

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REPLY TO THE NOTICE
TO FILE MISSING PARTS OF NONPROVISIONAL APPLICATION**

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-referenced patent application in accordance with the following instructions. An Appendix is attached to this amendment to provide a separate, marked up version showing all the changes relative to the immediate, prior version of the rewritten claim(s) and the Abstract of the Disclosure.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please insert the initial paper copy of the Sequence Listing supplied herewith between original pages 56 and 57; and renumber pages 57 to 60 accordingly.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please rewrite Claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1 (Amended). An isolated avian hepatitis E virus having no more than about 80% nucleotide sequence identity to an Australian big liver and spleen disease virus.

2 (Amended). The avian hepatitis E virus according to Claim 1, wherein said virus has a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 or its complementary strand.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the enclosed substitute copy.